CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An information handling system comprising:
a processor;
a memory coupled to the processor;
a connector for receiving an optional wireless card;
a fixed network controller situated in the system;
first and second indicators situated in the system and shared between the wireless card and the fixed network controller.

2. The information handling system of claim 1 further comprising a status processing logic circuit coupling the wireless card and the fixed network controller to the first and second indicators such that the first indicator indicates network activity.

3. The information handling system of claim 2 wherein the status processing logic circuit coupled to the second indicator enables the second indicator to indicate a good wireless network connection or a good fixed network controller connection.

4. The information handling system of claim 2 wherein the second indicator includes first and second sub-indicators for indicating different link rates, respectively, and the status processing logic circuit drives the first indicator to indicate a first link rate when the system is operating at a first link rate and drives the second indicator to indicate a second link rate when the system is operating at a second link rate.

5. The information handling system of claim 2 wherein the status processing logic circuit causes the fixed network controller to override the wireless device sharing of the first and second indicators when the fixed network controller is connected to a wire LAN thus providing access of the fixed network controller to the first and second indicators instead of the wireless device.

6. The information handling system of claim 1 wherein the first and second indicators are integrated in a wire LAN connector.

7. The information handling system of claim 6 wherein the second indicator includes first and second sub-indicators for indicating different link rates, respectively, and the status processing logic circuit drives the first indicator to indicate a first link rate when the system is operating at a first link rate and drives the second indicator to indicate a second link rate when the system is operating at a second link rate.

8. The information handling system of claim 1 further comprising a motherboard to which the fixed network controller is permanently attached.

9. The information handling system of claim 1 further comprising a motherboard to which the connector for the optional wireless card is attached, the wireless card being pluggably attachable to the connector for the optional wireless card.

10. The information handling system of claim 1 wherein the connector is a mini-PCI connector.

11. The information handling system of claim 1 wherein the wireless card is a mini-PCI wireless card.

12. A method of operating an information handling system comprising:
providing a first indicator;
providing a second indicator;
sharing the first indicator between a fixed network controller situated in the information handling system and a wireless device which is pluggable into a wireless device receiving connector in the information handling system; and
sharing the second indicator between the fixed network controller and the wireless device.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the wireless device is removable from the system.

14. The method of claim 12 wherein the first and second indicators are situated in a wire LAN connector.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the fixed network controller overrides the wireless device sharing of the first and second indicators when the wire LAN connector is connected to a wire LAN thus providing access of the fixed network controller to the first and second indicators instead of the wireless device.

16. The method of claim 12 wherein the first indicator indicates network activity.

17. The method of claim 12 wherein the second indicator indicates a good wireless network connection or a good fixed network controller connection.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the second indicator includes first and second sub-indicators for indicating different link rates, respectively.

19. The method of claim 1 wherein the wireless device receiving connector is a mini-PCI connector.

20. The method of claim 1 wherein the wireless device is a mini-PCI wireless device.